

WASTE 2 RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

** MEETING SUMMARY **

May 20, 2014, 9 a.m.

John Sherman, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. and introductions were made. He asked for a motion to approve the March 18 meeting notes.

Sego Jackson asked to revise Page 3, paragraph 4 to say “*Jan Gee asked how many counties are not including glass in curbside recycling. Shannon McClelland said many of the newer programs are not including glass.*” Suellen Mele asked to revised Page 2, paragraph 5, sentence 2 to say “*Also, a bill requiring new multifamily buildings to provide food and yard waste collection space didn’t pass.*”

There was a motion to adopt the meeting notes as amended. The motion was seconded and the notes were approved.

Committee Structure - Laurie Davies, Susanne McLemore

Contact: 360-407-6103, Laurie.Davies@ecy.wa.gov, 360-407-6103, Susanne.McLemore@ecy.wa.gov

Laurie said that she wants to ensure the Waste 2 Resources Advisory Committee (W2RAC) is comprised of a membership representing stakeholders across the board. We currently have some gaps in representatives for C&D, biomass, and environmental groups.

W2RAC made the following suggestions for the Committee’s membership:

- More stewardship organizations.
- NGOs – include Washington Toxics Coalition and others.
- Include green building groups, e.g. NW Green Building Council, Cascadia.
- Have Troy Lautenbach represent C&D and Chris Piercy represent WSRA.
- Include end users such as mills and glass processors.
- Include groups representing hazardous waste interests.

We will revisit the W2RAC membership roster in September, since it will be the time of year to discuss appointing a committee chair, etc.

New Scrap Metal Law – Al Salvi

Contact: 360-407-6287; Al.Salvi@ecy.wa.gov

As a result of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1552, to be metal recyclers, certain metal companies will need to apply for a license from Department of Licensing (DOL). Please see Al's briefing paper posted in W2RAC's website for details and links to more information.

Brian Jackson at DOL is tasked with implementing the legislation statewide. Brian is researching what businesses the legislation impacts, including checking for business licenses at the Department of Revenue. He isn't finding the information he needs and has asked Al to work with local governments to get assistance to identify impacted businesses.

Art Starry asked about the intent of the legislation. Al said the intent was to prevent metal theft. Sego Jackson commented that he didn't see anything in the licensing requirements that would prevent that.

Status of State Plan Update – Janine Bogar

Contact: 360-407-6654, Janine.Bogar@ecy.wa.gov

Janine reported that comment summaries are completed and the comments are being used to draft new content for the State Plan. There is lots of internal honing to do before we go to external review. Janine will attend the July W2RAC meeting to get the Committee's input. She expects the updated plan to be completed next spring.

John Sherman asked if there were any key or unexpected takeaways in the comments we've received. Janine said not really. There are some differences of opinion, which isn't surprising. Overall, the comments were thorough and helpful.

Sego Jackson mentioned a presentation that Steve Wamback did on a web-based method to get input from citizens. It would take some planning, but we may want to consider it for the next plan update process. It's hard to reach citizens and Pierce County found a way to do it.

Suellen Mele pointed out that it's easier to respond to something rather than offer big ideas. There could be potential to get information out to various distribution lists, e.g. publishing a blurb in a newsletter to invite people to go to a website.

John Sherman said that Pierce County did a road show to get input on the last supplemental plan update, but there was not a lot of attendance.

Public Participation Grants – Lynn Gooding
Contact: 360-407-6062, Lynn.Gooding@ecy.wa.gov

Lynn gave W2RAC a PowerPoint presentation on Public Participation Grants (PPG) that included a review of projects awarded grants for the current 2013-15 cycle. See her presentation posted on the W2RAC website.

Jerry Smedes asked about accountability after grants are awarded. Lynn said payment requests are reviewed to ensure expenditures are correct. Laurie Davies said that we also ensure grant recipients meet outcome measures.

Suellen Mele talked about submission of progress reports every 90 days. Small organizations need the cash flow, so they submit monthly progress reports.

Sego Jackson asked if the grants are only available to state and federal nonprofits. Lynn said the organization must be a 501C. Sego also asked about making information available on grants to non-English speaking groups. Lynn said there are translation services available, and Laurie Davies talked about Ecology's efforts in the Environmental Justice arena.

John Sherman asked if we use additional tactics to get the word out for more groups to apply. Laurie Davies said that we're looking at social media avenues.

Suellen Mele said this biennium we had the highest amount of grant money available in the history of PPGs. Some groups didn't apply because funding was retracted the prior biennium. She thinks the next grant cycle will be pretty competitive. PPGs have been really important for her group and other nonprofits to help them do work they wouldn't otherwise be able to afford.

Offset Cycle CPG Grants – Sharon Hlavka
Contact: 360-407-6223, Sharon Hlavka@ecy.wa.gov

Sharon gave W2RAC a PowerPoint presentation on that included an explanation of the application review process, and information on awards by region and category. There were 51 applications; 24 grants were awarded. We only had \$1 million to award this year.

Laurie Davies said the process was different this time, because the review was conducted jointly by grant recipients and Ecology. Laurie said that we're open to feedback on the process. She also said that the budget request for next biennium will be about 1.8 million more and we can request the fiscal growth factor.

John Sherman asked if for offset award recipients, they are brand new contracts or amendments. Sharon said that we're doing amendments on enforcement grants and agreements for implementation grants.

Multifamily Pilots & Work Around the State – Candy Castellanos, Waste Management
Contact: 425-633-5515, cvc@wm.com

Candy gave W2RAC a presentation on a pilot project to bridge the multicultural divide to educate the public on recycling. See Candy's presentation posted on W2RAC's website.

Candy talked about common barriers for multifamily recycling. In improving access to recycling programs, translation is an essential element. She also talked about the need for two-sided translation because of households where multiple languages are spoken.

Laurie Davies asked how much money was allotted for the project. Candy said they looked at what approaches would improve recycling and what the different tactics would be. Once they had that information, they presented the impacts and approaches to King County and the associated costs. The program involves revenue sharing. Door-to-door outreach was estimated at \$3600 per property.

Work included improving infrastructure with containers, painting, labeling, and signage. Part of the project has included providing a tote bag for recyclables.

Sego Jackson said the work in King and Snohomish counties has identified barriers to recycling. Multifamily residences don't have curbside bins. The tote bag serves as an in-home recycling system.

Troy Lautenbach asked if the tote bags have barriers in the bottom to prevent leakage and if they're washable. Candy said yes.

John Sherman said Pierce County has had an issue with the conception that multifamily residences are transient and need to be reeducated as movement occurs. Candy said the pilot program has included information to provide to residences upon move-in.

Dominic Calabro asked about revenue sharing. Gene Eckhardt said the revenue sharing program is based on a plan established between the county and the company. Revenue sharing is a way to use a portion to develop programs like the multifamily project to increase recycling. Plans are on an annual basis. WUTC can facilitate discussions and answer questions, but doesn't participate in developing the plan. At end of the plan, a report comes back on performance measures and other details. The value of recyclable materials is left as a separate component. WUTC decides how much revenue a company receives.

Sego Jackson said that no more than 50 percent can be retained. In recent years, this has become a rigorous process to ensure ratepayers will benefit.

John Sherman asked when the final report on the pilot project will be available. Candy said hopefully by the end of July.

Food Waste Prevention – Domenic Calabro, Michelle Andrews
Contact: 206-553-6640, Calabro.domenic@epa.gov; 360-407-6113,
Michelle.Andrews@ecy.wa.gov

Domenic gave W2RAC a presentation on some of EPA's efforts to reduce food waste. In working to change their approach to materials management and striving to minimize environmental impacts including reducing the waste stream, work has been done to target food waste. See Domenic's presentation posted on W2RAC's website.

Michelle Andrews gave a presentation on Ecology's efforts in the food waste reduction program. Organic materials are about 25% of our MSW, with food representing about 17%. Ecology is the first state agency to promote a food waste reduction program in the nation.

Now there are 20 agencies involved and 8 have an organics program. Outreach has included independent grocery stores. Food donation falls second under EPA's hierarchy to feed the hungry. Michelle's presentation is also posted on W2RAC's website.

Laurie asked if they're looking at including schools and universities in the efforts to reduce food waste. Michelle said that for now, state agencies are participating. Schools are on the radar for the future.

Carolyn Logue asked if outreach has been done to Washington Food Industry Association, and if they have talked to the FDA, the health departments, and any others that govern the food supply. Michelle said she has worked on outreach regarding food Samaritan laws. John Sherman said that Pierce County has received a lot of questions and suggested to reach out to health departments.

CPG Success Story: Thurston County Food Bank Re-Use Program – Tami Ramsey
Contact: 360-407-6612, Tami.Ramsey@ecy.wa.gov

Tami gave W2RAC a presentation on the food rescue project in Thurston County funded with a Coordinated Prevention Grant (CPG). See Tami's presentation posted on the W2RAC website.

The project is a public/private partnership among Thurston County Solid Waste, the Thurston County Food Bank, and Ecology. A comprehensive report will be available in the future with greater detail. The grant paid for needed infrastructure including a refrigerated truck, a prep kitchen, equipment, and supplies. In 18 months, the program collected 833 tons of food, with which they made more than 20,000 meals to distribute.

Laurie Davies asked if all food collected went into premade meals. Tami said most was used for premade meals. Laurie said she would like to know if there is information available on how much food was unusable. Art Starry said they've had to get people to think about ways to manage to ensure the food is safe.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- Waste Management's Behavior Study – September/November 2014
- DES Work: Reuse & Recycling – David Baker, September 2014
- E-Waste Program – September 2014
- Committee Structure – September 2014
- Update on Junk in Compost – September 2014
- 1-800-Recycle Hotline Changes – September 2014

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by: Susanne McLemore